2. Ile not meddle with it, it is a dangerous thing,
It makes a man a coward. A man cannot steale,
But it accuseth him, he cannot steale but it checks him:
He cannot lie with his neighbours wife but it detects
Him, it is a blushing shamefast spirit that mutinies
In a mans bosome: it fils one full of obstacles,
It made me once restore a peece of gold that I found.
It beggers any man that keepes it: it is turnd out of all
Townes and Cities for a dangerous thing, and euery
Man that meanes to liue well, endeuours to trust
To himselfe, and to liue without it.

1. Zounds, it is euen now at my elbow, perswading me
Not to kill the Duke.

2. Take the deuill in thy minde, and beleeue him not,
He would insinuate with thee to make thee sigh.

1. Tut, I am strong in fraud, he cannot preuaile with me,
I warrant thee.

2. Stood like a tall fellow that respects his reputation,
Come shall we to this geare?

1. Take him ouer the costard with the hilts of my sword,
And then we will chop him in the Malmsey-but in the next
2. Oh excellent deuice, make a soppe of him. (roome:

1. Harke, he stirs, shall I strike?

2. No, first lets reason with him. *Cla. awaketh.*

Cla. Where art thou Keeper, giue me a cup of wine.

1. You shall haue wine enought, my Lo. anone.

Cla. In Gods name, what art thou:

2. A man, as you are.

Cla. But not as I am, royall.

1. Nor you as we are, loyall.

Cla. Thy voyce is thunder, but thy lookes are humble.

2. My voyce is now the Kings, my lookes mine owne.

Cla. How darkely and how deadly doost thou speake?
Tell me, who are you? wherefore come you hither?

Am. To, to, to.

Cla. To murther me? *Am. I.*

Cla. You scarcely haue the heart to tell me so,
And therefore cannot haue the hearts to do it,
Wherein my friends haue I offended you?

1. Offend

1. Offended vs you haue not,
Cla. I shall be reconciled to him
2. Neuer my Lo. therefore prep
Clar. Are you cald forth from o
To slay the innocent? what is my
Where are the euidence to accuse
What lawfull quest haue giuen the
Vnto the frowning Iudge, or who
The bitter sentence of poore Clare
Before I be conuict by course of la
To thereaten me with death is mo
I charge you as you hope to haue
By Christs deare blood shed for ou
That you depart and lay no hands
The deed you vndertake is damna
1. What we will doe, we do vpon
2. And he that hath commande
Cla. Erroneous vassaile, the grea
Hath in his Tables of his Law com
That thou shalt doe no murther, a
Spurne at his edict, and fulfill a ma
Take heed, for he holdes vengean
To huile vpon their heads that bre
2. And that same vengeance do
For false forswearing and for murth
Thou didst receiue the holy Sacra
To fight in quarrell of the house o
1. And like a traitor to the Nam
Didst breake that vow, and with th
Vnripst the bowels of thy Souerai
2. Whome thou wert sworne to
1. How canst thon vrge Gods dr
When thou hast broke it in so dear
Cla. Alas, for whose sake did I tha
For Edward, for my brother, for his
Why sirs, he sends ye not to murde
For in this sin he is as deepe as I.
If God will be reuenged for this dee
Take not the quarrell from his pow

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Richard III* (STC 22319) LONDON, 1622 THE BRITISH LIBRARY (C.34.k.51)